



King County

Opportunity Greenway

"Introducing youth to green career skills and education"

The **Opportunity Greenway** program introduces youth and young adults ages 16-21 who have had previous experience with the court system to career skills in high wage and high demand occupations through exploratory activities at King County departments, private employers and community and technical colleges. This program is expected to help youth in many ways, including basic skills improvement, increased understanding of living-wage "green" career opportunities, development of habits and attitudes for success in education and work, and coaching on how to resolve personal, legal and family issues that are barriers to success.



"Opportunity Greenway is about empowering disadvantaged youth to explore long-term livelihoods in green building, transportation and environmental protection — and planting the seeds to grow the workforce that we need to meet our environmental and climate policy goals. In the future, the youth who are traditionally marginalized will be at the forefront of innovative technology."

- Ron Sims, King County Executive



In 2008, the **Opportunity Greenway** students learned job skills in various "green" fields as well as life skills and climate-friendly practices. Students at the South Seattle Community College's Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center learned about green building, energy efficiency and how to remain physically fit for both work and life. Students at King County International Airport gained intensive learning in basic math and science, communications, and new knowledge in such topics as climate change and clean energy technologies, through guest presentations by King County decision-makers, tours of King County Metro Transit bus bases and conversations with county employees such as hybrid bus mechanics. Students in the natural resources track participated in tours of environmental protection projects and engaged with experts at King County Wastewater Treatment Division.



The **Opportunity Greenway** program was coordinated by King County Work Training Program's YouthSource, which recently won a Recognition of Excellence from the United States Department of Labor. This pilot program was funded in 2008 with a grant from the Department of Labor, through the Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council.

Right: Students from the GE-NEW program at SSCC's Duwamish Campus.



"We are learning a lot and I'm excited to keep learning"
- Opportunity Greenway student

"The skills I am gaining here will help me in the future"
- Opportunity Greenway student

Below: South Seattle Community College's Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center, location of the energy and green building exploratory program.

